

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tagami et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,402,171) in view of Tanaka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,208,376).¹ Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to an image reproduction apparatus comprising display-image discrimination means for discriminating a display mode in which selected image data is to be displayed, the display mode including at least a normal display mode, an at-a-glance display mode and a panoramic display mode. The display-image discrimination means includes means for discriminating that the image data is a panoramic image when the aspect ratio of the image data differs from that of a display area of a display device. Display-mode setting means are provided for setting the display mode, which is discriminated by the display-image discrimination mean, to the image data; and display means are provided for displaying the image data in the display mode set by the display-mode setting means.

No such image reproduction apparatus is disposed, or suggested in either Tagami or Tanaka or the combination thereof.

The Examiner however contends that Tagami et al. discloses all of the features of Applicant's invention set forth in claim 1 with the exception of the "at-a-glance display mode". In particular the Examiner contends that Tagami discloses image discrimination means which includes "means for discriminating that the image data is a panoramic image when the aspect ratio of the image data [i.e., $2N_h \times N_v$ in Fig. 52] differs from that of a display area of a display device [$N_h \times N_v$ in Fig. 52] ["the image output range [aspect ratio of display area of a display device] of the conventional electronic still camera system is fixed, the broken line portion is the image output range [aspect ratio of the image data] of the reproduced image" (see col. 2, lines 14-22)]."

However, Figs. 49 and 52 merely illustrate the effect of a panoramic image on the number or horizontal and vertical pixels. There is no teaching in Figs. 49 or 50 or in col. 25, lines 14-22 how the Tagami et al. reference discriminates whether image data represents a panoramic image,

¹ It should be noted that claim 3 was previously canceled and, accordingly, the claims presently in the application are claims 1 and 2-11.

let alone any teaching discriminating that the image data is a panoramic image when the aspect ratio of the image data differs from that of the display area of a display device.

Tagami et al. discriminates whether the image data represents a panoramic image by placing a mark, "P", in the image. More specifically as stated in col. 27, lines 3-16,

"FIG. 61 shows an image with a mark put in a panoramic reproduction image to distinguish the reproduced image picked up in normal imaging mode from the reproduced image picked up in panoramic mode. "P" at the upper right of the reproduced image represents a panorama image. At the time of reading data from the memory card, the reproducing section of the electronic camera reads image control data from the memory card which indicates whether the image data is an ordinary image or a panorama image, and selects signal processing matching the image. As one process in this processing, when the output image is a panorama image, a mark representing such is indicated in the reproduced image."

In view of the foregoing it is respectfully submitted that Tagami et al. does not teach an image reproduction apparatus comprising inter alia display-image discrimination means which includes means for discriminating that the image data is a panoramic image when the aspect ratio of the image data differs from that of the display area of the display device.

Tanaka et al. is cited as showing an at-a-glance mode. However, there is no teaching in Tanaka of the means for discriminating set forth in claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is clearly patentable over the combination of Tagami et al and Tanaka et al.

Claims 2 and 4-11 are dependent either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are therefore patentable for the same reasons, as well as because of the combination of features set forth in these claims with the combination of features set forth in the claim(s) from which they depend.

In view of the foregoing this application is now believed to be in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 13, 2003

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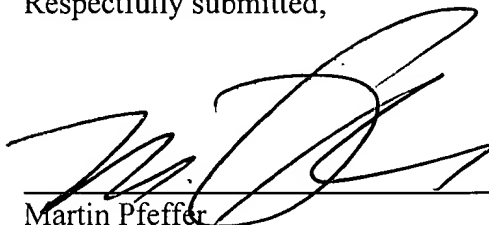

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Respectfully submitted,



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